Orissa Mining Corporation is the parent undertaking.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Madam, the reply says—and this must be a policy decision—that hundred per cent export oriented units are not entitled to get cash compensatory support. It is also a fact that the manufacturing cost exceeds the export price. Now, if it is exceeding the manufacturing cost, then I would like to know from the hon. Minister why we are exporting at all. Is it just to incur losses so far as this item is concerned?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: We have been exporting charge chrome for a long time. Contractual obligations are also there. Exactly, the price that we are getting is about Rs. 17- per dollar on an average. The loss that we are having in this particular sector is lesser compared to some other sectors. So, it is not that we have been incurring loss only on this item. We have been incurring losses in other sectors also. Sometimes it happens because of market fluctuations and volatility of exchange rates. But we have to export.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Madam, this question is linked with the national policy when the charge chrome plants were permitted manufacture in this country. Madam, chrome is a very rare material and it is exhaustible. So, the export of chrome in the National Mineral Policy was decided to be banned as a result of which the charge-chrome plants were permitted. And now also there may be some thinking that instead of chrome export, there should be a policy re-organisation for the charge-chrome export. In this context, I would like the hon. Minister to consider about the present worry of the charge-chrome plants so that their problem can be solved and they can generate more employment and this mineral can be better utilised and they can become viable units in this country. What are the other concessions they are thinking of giving to this industry in this country?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Well, Madam, the hon. Member very well knows that there are three types of ferro-chrome materials—high carbon ferro-chrome, low carbon ferro-chrome and charge-chrome with varying chromium content. In India, our alloy steel industry does not use any significant quantity of charge-chrome with its low chrome content. Indian units use only high carbon ferro-chrome and low carbon ferro-chrome elements. But in Japan and some other countries, they use charge-chrome for production of alloy steels. Therefore, it is necessary that we export charge-chrome and we have been doing so. It is only recently that because of rising cost of production, specially I mentioned the electricity duty charged by the Orissa Government, that the cost of production has gone up and, therefore, these losses are there.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 402.

Pending Pension Cases of Freedom Fighters from U.P.

*402. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of pension cases of freedom fighters from Uttar Pradesh pending in his Ministry, categorywise;

(b) what is the number of such cases pending for more than three years and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken for their speedy disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (c) As a result of special drive conducted during July-August, 1986, all pending cases from U.P. excepting those relating to participation in Arya Samaj Movement in Hyderabad were disposed of and pension sanctioned where acceptable evidence was produced by the applicants.

55 cases of participation in Arya Samaj Movement are pending at present. These cases are about a year old. Steps are being taken for their expeditious disposal by referring them to the Non-official Screening Committee appointed for this purpose.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय: माननीया, यह स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानियों की ओर से आवेदन पत्र देने की क्या कोई अन्तिम तिथि थी और यह जो 1985-86 में विशेष अभियान चलाया गया, उस दौरान कितने आवेदन पत्र स्वीकार्य हुए और कितने अस्वीकार्य हुए ?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: About UP?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: My question is about UP. About the country, my question is about the last date.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Madam, let me first answer the main question relating to UP, then I will come to the general question. Madam, from the State of UP, a total of 27,105 applications were received and out of them, we have already sanctioned 17,139 cases so far. The total in the country is about 4,45,000 applications that were received, and till today we have sanctioned 1,42,099 cases.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Another question was whether any date for applying was fixed.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: March 31, 1982 was the last date. But we have also kept it open for any genuine freedom fighter. Suppose they could not apply within that time, we have allowed for any genuine cases coming. They can apply. And if we find that the case is genuine, we can condone the delay. And in that case also we are sanctioning pension to many genuine freedom fighters who have not applied within that time.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय: महोदया, मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न है, अभी तो एक ही हुआ है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि बहुत से ऐसे जेल हैं जो जेल ही समाप्त हो गए हैं। जैसे इलाहाबाद में एक मलाका जेल थी, वहां पर शहीद राशन सिंह को फांसी हुई थी वह जेल समाप्त हो गई और जब जेल समाप्त हुई तो वहाँ के सारे जो रिकार्ड थे वे भी नष्ट हो गए। इस सिलसिले में एक प्रावधान यह था कि जो उनके सहयात्री थे, उनमें से वह सहयात्री यदि प्रमाणित कर दे तो उसको पेंशन स्वीकार होती थी। लेकिन कठिनाई यह है कि बहुत से ऐसे मामले जिनमें एक भी सहयात्री शायद ही जीवित है। तो इस संबंध में क्या सरकार अपने आदेश में या जो सरकारी शासनादेश है, उसमें कोई परिवर्तन करने पर विचार कर रही है ?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Madam, we have taken these difficulties into consideration, as Malaviyaji pointed out. Wherever jail records or certificates are destroyed, well, the State Governments can give a certificate to the effect that these records are not available and if any co-prisoner is still living, if he can certify that he knows that such and such person was in that jail, it will serve the purpose. We have liberalised this scheme in 1982 and many of these cases we are considering and sanctioning pension.

श्री शान्ति त्यागी: उपसभापति महोदया, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा मेरी जानकारी में यह आया है कि उत्तर प्रदेश से आई०एन०ए० के कुछ लोगों के पेंशन के प्रार्थना-पत्र आपके यहां पेंडिंग हैं, अगर ऐसा है तो अब तक आपने उनके बारे में क्या किया है ? यह मेरी जानकारी है इसलिए मैं पूछ रहा हूं आप भी फ्रीडम फाइटर हैं और मैं भी हूं।

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: I am happy that he raised this point of the ex-MLA. Madam, for the information of the House I may say that we have already sanctioned pension to about 18,901 cases of INA and we have formed a committee, a special committee. General Mohan Singh and Col. Sehgal they are there on that committee. Whatever applications we are getting, they know ex-INA people, we send it to them and

whenever any recommendation comes from UP side, we will be considering it very favourably.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, we have great respect for our freedom fighters. Because of their sacrifices we are enjoying this freedom. But even after 40 years of independence, Government receives thousands of applications from freedom fighters. Actually, there is no logic behind entertaining such a large number of applications from freedom fighters. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government has relaxed any norms or it has added new areas for granting pensions under the scheme of freedom fighters' pension.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Madam, I made it very clear that the guidelines were fixed in 1972 when Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi decided that we shall give pension to freedom fighters. So, in 1972 one scheme was there. All the guidelines were given. In 1982 we liberalised this scheme and we said these are more liberal guidelines. Under that applications were coming. We had said that March 31, 1983 was the last date. We are not entertaining any new applications after March. But if any genuine freedom fighters did not want to apply for this pension then, because this is no reward for them, this is simply a kind of token respect for our ailing freedom fighters and if they did not apply for it then, but felt that they should apply now, such cases only we are entertaining. We are not entertaining any new applications.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Has any new area been covered under relaxation?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: There are two shcemes. One set of guidelines was issued in 1972. Then in 1980 we liberalised and all those guide-lines are here. If my friend wants, I can read them out. (*Interruptions*).

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : उपसभापति महोदया, मुझे माननीय मंत्री जी की नीति में कोई संदेह नहीं हैं, इन्होंने बहुत प्रयास किया है, यह मैं जानता हूं लेकिन जो आफिसर हैं काम करने वाले, देने वाले, वे इतने चालाक हैं और इसलिए देर करते हैं कि कुछ लोग आ करके उनको पैसा देंगे उनका काम जल्दी बढ़ाय, यह मैं व्यक्तिगत रूप से जानता हूं। आप कहें तो मैं चैलेंज कर के कह सकता हूं। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि ठोस प्रमाण देने के बाद, मेरे हाथ में है पूरी कापी, उसको फ्रीडम फाइटर नहीं माना गया। पांच सर्टीफिकेट इस आदमी के हैं, अन्तिम सांस गिन रहा है, मुलतानी जेल में पाकिस्तान में रहा है लेकिन अभी तक इसको पेंशन की स्वीकृति नहीं मिली। इनका नाम है केशवभाई। पिछल साल अक्तूबर में मैंने लिखा था, उसके बाद दो बार लिखा, टाइम नहीं है नहीं तो मैं आपको सारी जानकारी देता कि कितने सर्टीफिकेट उसके हैं उसके बावजूद भी कोई जवाब नहीं मिला, सिर्फ एक चिट्ठी आयी है कि मैं दिखवा रहा हूं अक्तूबर, 1986 में। दूसरी बात यह है कि इनके फार्म छपे हुए हैं जब कोई प्रोविंसियल सरकार की ओर से कोई चिट्ठी जाती है तो वह इस फार्म पर टिक कर देते हैं...

उपसभापति : मैं आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहती हूं कि आप अपनी सीट से नहीं बोल रहे हैं।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : ऐसा होता है कि अगर लीडर न हो तो डिप्टी लीडर बैठ जाता है। (**व्यवधान**) वैसे मैं गलती में बैठ गया हूं, जान कर नहीं बैठा हूं।

उपसभापति : सवाल पूछ कर वहां बैठ जाइयगा।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : जो इनके स्टीरियो टाइप वाक्य छपे हैं उस पर ये लोग टिक कर देंगे कि आपका प्रमाण पत्र मान्य है या आपका प्रमाण पत्र अमान्य है, या आपके पत्र में एसा है, वैसा है

इस तरह लौटा देते हैं टिक मार्क करके। दूसरी बात यह है कि एक ही सहयात्री के प्रमाणपत्र पर दस आदमियों को मिलता है पर ग्यारहवें आदमी का कहते हैं आपका प्रमाण पत्र, सहयात्री का अमान्य है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जैसे कोई एक गाड़ी चलती है तो वह एक लाख किलोमीटर के बाद खत्म हो जाता है तो क्या एक सहयात्री कई प्रमाण पत्र देने के बाद आगे और प्रमाण पत्र देने लायक नहीं रह जायेगा ? क्योंकि यह लिखते हैं कि इसने 50 दे दिये, इसने 100 दे दिये। सौ तक तो वह मान्य है और जब वह 101वां देगा तो वह अमान्य हो जायेगा क्या यह गलत नहीं है मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि एक फ्रीडम फाइटर का सहयात्री कई प्रमाण पत्र देगा तो क्या उसके बाद देने वाला प्रमाण पत्र अमान्य हो जायेगा ? मैं यह इसलिए कह रहा हूं कि कई बार जेनूइन फ्रीडम फाइटर रह जाता है ; उसके लिए कोई प्रमाण पत्र आता है तो माना जाना चाहिए। मैंने तीन आदमियों के नाम विनय भूषण, केशव भाई और अली हसन दो बार मिलकर दिये हैं और मिनिस्टर साहब ने आश्वासन भी दिया। लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि इनके जो अफसर हैं इन्होंने अपना पुराना रवैया नहीं बदला है हालांकि काफी कड़ाई से इन्होंने कहा है कि दिलवाऊंगा।

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: This is a long question....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can give a short answer.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: I understand the anxiety because all hon. Members are anxious to see that genuine freedom fighters are given the pension.

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: These are the papers which may be handed over to the Minister.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: I have already got those three cases which the hon. Member has referred. He has already given me these papers and I have assured him that once it is known that the person is a genuine freedom fighter, there is no difficulty and we would see that these cases are examined properly. Even today when I go back, I will see these cases. Now, the hon. Member has made the general charge that the officers are not performing their duty etc. We see to it that in as many cases as possible, pension is sanctioned to the freedom fighters without any difficulty to them. Our officers are behaving very very politely and exercising as much caution as possible. Hon. Members can point out if there are any difficulties, if any officer is doing anything wrong. We will take action. We have taken action whenever anything is brought to our notice by hon. Members. But a general charge cannot be made.

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: You are not replying to my question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Madam, we are trying to liberalise it as much as possible. But what I would like to point out is that we do not accept this kind of general allegation.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : कितने सर्टिफिकेट के बाद आप इनको अमान्य घोषित करेंगे ? हजारों सहयात्रियों के प्रमाणपत्र दिये, पांच सौ से भी अधिक के प्रमाणपत्र दिये। इस तरह के हजारों डेमेज आपके पास पेंडिंग हैं। आप इनको क्यों अमान्य करते हैं ?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: I have heard you. Now, you must hear what I am going to say.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : श्री वसावन सिंह बड़े स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानी हैं [illegible] प्रमाण-पत्र को आपने अमान्य घोषित कर दिया। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि श्री वसावन सिंह से बड़ा हिन्दुस्तान में क्या कोई स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानी है ? आपने [illegible] प्रमाण-पत्र अमान्य घोषित कर दिया ?

My question is after how many certificates you will derecognise?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member wants to know how many certificates one can issue. There might have been many people who might have been in jail along with a particular person, That person issues a certificate. He wants to know how many certificates one can give.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Madam, he took, about ten minutes. I am taking only three minutes. The other point which he mentioned was about identical cases. In ten cases, pension is sanctioned, but in ten other identical cases, cases are not disposed of. We are looking into those cases. Wherever there are doubts, we look into those cases and take action. Therefore, there is no difficulty. As far as the question of certificates is concerned, we find that there are certain people who have given personal knowledge certificates to 10,000 persons, 5,000 persons etc.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : वे लोग चार हजार आदमियों के साथ रहे, चार जगहों में जल में रहे तो वे चार या पांच हजार आदमियों के सर्टिफिकेट्स देंगे । आप इन सब बातों पर विचार कीजिए।

This is not a good answer.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Madam, I would like to point out that there is no limit that one will certify only 10, 20, 30 etc.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Reasonable limit is there?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: There is no limit.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : आपने श्री शीलभद्र याज , जो इनकी एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष हैं उनका सर्टिफिकेट अपन अमान्य कर दिया । आप लोग ऐसी बात क्यों करते हैं ? (व्यवधान)

This is very serious charge....*

*Not recorded.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This will not go on record. आप बार-बार एक ही बात को दोहराते जाते हैं । यह सवाल पूछने का तरीका नहीं है

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Madam, his question of pending pension cases has become very serious, whether it is in U.P. or in the other States. The problem is, what I call, an amateurisn and emotional approach in the announcements made by ministers. In July, 1986, the hon. Minister in whose place you have now been appointed said that the Prime Minister had asked them to complete all cases by 14th August. This was 14th Auguest, 1986. Now we are in 1987 and from my own district Sangli 7-8 cases sent by me are still not attended to. I do not want to go to the extent of what my young friend has said but it seems that the files are dealt with in some Jayaprakash Bhawan or some other Bhawan, there are experts also who go there and get the things done themselves, but I cannot go to that place. So, may I know, how many cases are pending and what is the last date by which you will decide all the cases? Do not make an announcement because it will create further problems for us. You stay in Delhi and we stay in our town. So, give us a reasonable and logical date so that we could wait till that time.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Do you want for Maharashtra only?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam, for all India, not for Maharashtra alone.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I do not mind if he includes all the States together.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: As Shri Kulkarni pointed out, it was announced by my previous colleague Minister that since the hon. Members wanted to have immediate clearance drive, so 14th August, 1986, was fixed

as the date by which all the applications will be considered, either the applications will be accepted or they will be rejected. In the process 72,000 applications were found without any adequate supportive evidence and so they were rejected. But then the genuine Freedom fighters' Committees in different States and the State Governments represented to the Central Government to give at least scope for review of the genuine cases where they can have a chance of appeal. We agreed to this and said that those genuine fighters who will appeal will be entertained. As you wanted, 9000 applications have come from the genuine freedom fighters.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What about Maharashtra?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: What is genuine and what is ingenuine?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Maharashtra, we have sanctioned 15,220 cases. I cannot say about the exact number of pending cases as on today.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Say 10,000 are pending.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Out of that general rejection of 72,000 cases, the number may come...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Write to me afterwards.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Therefore, Madam, these 9000 applications came for review. We are considering those cases and out of those cases we have sanctioned almost, including the Hyderabad Steering Committee, about four to five thousand cases till today. We are also trying to dispose of the remaining cases as early as possible. Shri Kulkarni wanted to have the exact date. We are trying to dispose them of as early as possible.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: In another ten years at least.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: It is too long a period.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : मैं मंत्री जी से दो बातें पूछना चाहता हूं। एक तो यह कि स्वतंत्रता सेनानी पेंशन के कागजात मंत्री महोदय देखते हैं या सचिवालय के अधिकारी देखते हैं ? मैं यह इसलिए पूछता हूं कि मैंने और कुछ सदस्यों ने मिलकर कागज इनको भेज दिया, इनसे पहले भी जो मंत्री थे उनसे बहस करके, बात करके भी पूछा। उपसभापति महोदया, मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि आप तय करने वाले हो या वही तय करेगा जो 1942 में डंडा लेकर पीटता था ? डंडा मारने वाला भी वही अधिकारी और पेंशन देने वाला भी वह अधिकारी। मैंने एक कागज इनके नाम से भी दिया, इनके हाथ में भी दिया। यह आदमी जो कांग्रेस का चार या पांच बार विधायक रहा, उसके साथ के सब लोग मर चुके हैं। जब उसकी स्थिति खराब हो गई तो उन्होंने कहा कि अप्लाई करना चाहिए। वह कागज हमने आपको भी दिया, और आपके सचिवालय को भी दिया; कहा कि इनका कागज वहां उपलब्ध है इनका नाम नहीं है। कलेक्टर ने कहा कि मैं बार-बार कहता हूं कि यह कागज उपलब्ध नहीं है फिर भी कहा कि चाहे कागज उपलब्ध न हो, सिर्फ एक आदमी के चलते उनका नहीं देंगे, हमें औरों का नाम काटना होगा। तो मुंगेर जिले के बहुत से नाम काट दिये। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि आप तय करते हैं या वो तय करते हैं ? दूसरा रिजेक्शन का जहां तक प्रश्न है मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि हिन्दुस्तान भर में आपने कितने केसेज रिजेक्ट किये हैं और उनके क्या कारण हैं ?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: If the hon. Member gives me some individual cases, I shall look into them why these are delayed and if they are genuine, I shall look into these. Ultimately it is the Minister who sees it.

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : उपसभापति महोदया, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में यह कहा है और यह बड़ी

खुशी की बात है कि जिन लोगों ने आर्य समाज आन्दोलन में भाग लिया था उनको भी मान्यता प्रदान की गई है यानी उनको भी स्वतन्त्रता सेनानियों की पेंशन देने का निर्णय सरकार ने लिया है । इस सम्बन्ध में मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूं कि हैदराबाद स्टेट के निजाम के दौरान जो आर्य समाज आन्दोलन चला, उस में जो सत्याग्रही थे वे न सिर्फ हैदराबाद स्टेट के थे बल्कि देश के दूसरे प्रान्तों पंजाब आदि से भी आए थे । क्या उन लोगों को जो दूसरी स्टेट्स से आए थे उनको भी स्वतंत्रता सेनानी माना जा रहा है, उनको पेंशन दी जा रही है या नहीं ? प्रश्न का दूसरा भाग यह है कि माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि कई हजार एप्लीकेशंज आज तुरंत मंजूर की गई खास कर के आन्ध्र प्रदेश को । मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि दो किस्म के स्वतंत्रता सेनानी हैं । एक तो सही मायने में जिन्होंने आन्दोलन में हिस्सा लिया और दूसरा वह वर्ग है जो स्वतंत्रता सेनानी नहीं हैं, लेकिन उनको भी पेंशन दी गई और बाद में कुछ का नाम काट दिया गया ? इसके बाद यह भी एक प्रश्न हो रहा है कि फिर नये ढंग से उनके नाम स्वतन्त्रता सेनानियों की लिस्ट में शामिल किये जाएं । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि कितने स्वतंत्रता सेनानी हैं जिन्होंने सही मायने में आन्दोलन में हिस्सा लिया खास कर के आन्ध्र प्रदेश के और कौन से वे स्वतंत्रता सेनानी हैं जिनका नाम लिस्ट में से निकाल दिया गया है जिनका पेंशन बन्द किया गया है जो स्वतंत्रता सेनानी नहीं हैं ।

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Madam, Mr. Reddy mentioned three types of cases. One was about the Arya Samaj Movement. We have recognised this movement as part of the freedom movement. Then he mentioned about ex-Nizam's merger movement. And some allegation was made by Mr. Reddy that those who had not been freedom fighters, their names have been recommended. We are scrutinising all these cases. We have referred this matter to the Hyderabad Special Screening Committee. Again we have formed another non-official screening committee called the Arya Samaj Movement Screening Committee. We believe that they are recommending genuine cases. But supposing Mr. Reddy points out that they are not genuine cases, then we will have to refer back to them and say that they are not genuine cases. We are cancelling many cases which were given pension by the recommendation of different people. We are cancelling them when complaints are coming. So, if you can kindly help us to know, we shall do our best.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Information was given by the Government itself that so many applications have been rejected . . . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, the honourable Minister has stated about guidelines. They are not following the set guidelines relating to the States. In relation to my State, when the freedom struggle was there, people from the sourthern region took asylum in our State because at that time we were being ruled by the French. In Pondicherry, Bharatiyar, Subramania Siva and other leaders were there and, when in Pondicherry we started our freedom struggle, our people had taken asylum on the Tamil Nadu border. But, when we approached the honourable Minister for the purpose of granting pension to them, his reply is that the State Government will take care of them. My submission is that the guidelines have to be reviewed for the purpose of considering payment of Central pension to persons who were in self-exile. Secondly, there is a variation in the States while granting pension to the freedom fighters. One State grants Rs. 350, another Rs. 300 and yet another, Rs. 250. I want to know whether the Central Government will issue guidelines to all the States to give pension to all the State freedom fighters uniformly.

SHRI CHINTAMAN PANIGRAHI: Madam, so far as state pensions are concerned, we cannot tell them that they should have a limit of Rs. 400 or Rs. 300 or Rs. 200. According to their resources they are doing it. About Pondicherry the total number of applications received was 2,802 and out of that we have already sanctioned 1,846. Again; some of these applications we have referred to the State Government of Pondicherry to recommend whether these cases deserve pension. The cases are there. So, once the State Government reports to us according to the guidelines, then we will consider those cases also.

डा बापू कालदाते : मान्यवर, आपने कहा कि दफ्तर के सभी लोग अच्छी तरह से काम करते हैं। हमने 20 दिन पहले एक चिट्ठी लिखी, 30 जुलाई, को, तो कम से कम उसका जवाब तो दे देते कि हम देख रहे हैं। हमने 30 जुलाई को चिट्ठी लिखी 20 अगस्त तक उसका जवाब नहीं आया तो हमने दोबारा उनको लिखा। तो इसको आप देखिए।

If this is the type of efficiency of your officers, then I don't think even hundreds of years will suffice to settle these cases. I have another simple question. About the Hyderabad Struggle, the Screening Committee has finalized its recommendations. My question is, how much time will it take to settle all the cases which have already ben finalized by the Screening Committee?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: I am thankful to the honourable Member. Out of these 6 000 applications that the Hyderabad Special Screening Committee has recommended we have already sanctioned about 4 600 cases. Another 1,400 or 1 600 cases remain and to facilitate their disposal we have even extended the lifetime of the Screening Committee. As soon as possible perhaps within a month or two we are going to finish that thing. About your not receiving a reply, I am very sorry... *(Interruptions)*...

DR. BAPU KALDATE: There is not even the courtesy of acknowledging our letter. That is our difficulty. You have not even the courtesy. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: I am very sorry. I will see that whenever any letter comes, a reply is sent.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You ask him to expedite the matters.

*403. [*The questioners (Shri T. R. Balu and Shri V. Gopalsamy) were absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 28-29 *infra.*]

Minister's visit to Korea and China

*404. DR. BAPU KALDATE:†

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited South Korea and China recently;

(b) if so, what was the purpose of his visit; and

(c) what has been the outcome of the visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(1) The then Minister for External Affairs, Shri N. D. Tiwari, paid an official visit to the Republic of Korea (ROK) from May 17th to 19th, 1987, and a transit visit to the People's Republic of China from June 14th to 16th, 1987.

(2) The official visit to the ROK was in the nature of a return visit

†The questions was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Bapu Kaldate.